

- 16 Copy of House of Education Certificate (framed).
- 17 Particulars, Programmes, and Time-tables of the P.R.S.
- 18 Nature Lore Papers, by children of the P.R.S.
- 19 Portfolio containing complete set of Questions, together with complete set of Answers to the same, sent in by a Mother, for the Mothers' Educational Course.
- 20 Set of Reports of the Parents' National Educational Union.
- 21 Single copies of all the publications issued by the P.N.E.U. office.

I think all those who so kindly and willingly sent in "pages" for the Nature Note Scrap Book would have been very pleased with the effect when all fifty-two pages were mounted on their sheets of dark brown paper, eight to a sheet. I only hope it will be sent back in good condition, so that it may be available for other exhibitions. Miss Mason has been asked to send Nature Note Books to the Bradford Exhibition to be opened May 4th by the Prince and Princess of Wales, so before this is in print I shall have had to send for another set of books from ex-students. They always respond very readily to my frequent requests, and I should like to add how much I appreciate their willingness.

C. F. BARNETT.

PETER'S WINDOW.

Once more the "window into the world" is open—how very little of it any one person can see through, and how a fresh angle can alter the outlook.

I believe you have a Reading Society which has to implore you very humbly to occasionally read a book—does it ever ask you to read Magazines? It is just possible that some of you do without being previously entreated, and you may have noticed in one of this year's "Temple Bar's" an article on "Orchestration" by Miss Florence Fidler. The article was addressed to those who sit in the room of the unlearned, and was most wonderfully helpful to those who listen, wondering and admiring, but *not* knowing. The work and place of each instrument was explained and its pitch given, so that Peter for one will never again listen in ignorant rapture to the "Soldiers in the Park," but will have the added delight of a first faint glimmering of "how it is done." Miss Fidler has correspondence classes for teaching rudimentary comprehension of Orchestration, and assures her readers that "you will soon learn how to do it."

If you are sighing, by any chance, for fresh fields of mental effort, here are two ways of spending an hour just brought under our notice. In one large London suburb there is a Greek Philosophy Class which meets at the members' houses in the evenings, and traces human thought as it emerges from the Hellenic background. They are now considering the Orphic Mysteries, and have at any rate found out the origin of "Diana of the Crossways." One wishes her statue stood at all "four ways" now, so that passing motors might have to "sound the gongs."

The next method is a "discussion" class, in which women are taught debate and the suavities of public speaking, and how to keep to the point. How necessary this is may be typified by the case of the feminine committee of a large girls' club, who, the other day, discussed for one hour and a half the proper method of dealing with one erring member before they decided on her suspension!

Those who are devoted to the care of young folk ought to be especially interested in its inevitable climax—old age. The latest theories of the head of the Pasteur Institute are worth considering. The problem resolves itself into this—how to prolong the fighting days of our white corpuscles, and to prevent them from seizing upon our red corpuscles and forming “connective tissue” from them. When we have done that we are to be again “full of days,” and senile decay is to be unknown. We must leave it to the scientists to discover the necessary serum, but a good deal can be done by training the ever-ready fighting spirit, which meets facts and obstacles much as our teeth meet crusts, chiefly as strengthening food to be speedily disposed of.

I see that the Parents' Review School have lately been using a book of extracts from Sir Thomas Mallory's “Morte d' Arthur.” The language of this must always be a pure joy—it takes us back to days when men “rode a great wallop” and enjoyed “passing good cheer.” The original Sir Thomas had an unfortunate way of adding the moral obliquities of his own time to the original tales—the rejection of those by modern taste, showing how even our stories feel the force of evolution—is a very strong argument for the germ of essential truth and purity in all old tales and Scriptures which will come to light even after long centuries. Tennyson makes his Arthur a stainless hero, and (low be it spoken) slightly early Victorian and priggish; in Sir Thomas he is very frail humanity. Even Swinburne makes the whole story of Tristram and Seult hinge on the magic of the fatal cup—“unwillingly they fell;” whereas in Sir Thomas we cannot but have an uneasy consciousness that it was an unnecessary addition! Also it is odd to notice how those immensely strong knights, who could fight in armour from morn to eve and live in the saddle, could swoon three times in one interview from emotion; and if “a damsel” came to minister to their wounds she inevitably swooned at the sight of them. We have progressed since then; we expect self-control from our nurses—but do we expect it enough yet from our patients? Sometimes methinks we are inclined to be over-tender, especially with children, in this respect, and to allow their entire moral code to be left outside the door of the sick-room. What think you?

STUDENTS' MEETINGS.

DECEMBER 19TH, 1903.—Quite a large meeting was held on this date at the XXth Century Club, seventeen members being present. A considerable amount of business was done, as well as a most enjoyable amount of gossip.

Miss Good and Miss Wix were unanimously voted members of the Conference Committee, which will meet in the autumn to discuss plans for next year's Conference.

Miss Pennethorne and Miss Gray announced their intention of making a great effort this spring to reach all students who do not belong to the Association.

After some discussion it was decided to send a copy of the current “L'Umile Pianta” to all, with a special appeal to join us.

Several members do not consider our badge quite ornamental enough. It was decided that one of similar design should be made, rather smaller, and worked in brown and green enamel. The cost is estimated to be the same; and for the future students may choose which they will have.

It was also decided that a copy of the badge should be printed on the cover of the magazine.

Seven of the London members decided to form a Magazine Club, and are taking in the “Nineteenth Century,” “Knowledge,” “The Studio,” “The House Beautiful,” and “Blackwood.”

It was suggested that Local Magazine Clubs and Reading Unions should be mentioned in the Budget.

An invitation from Mrs. Franklin to hold a meeting at Porchester Terrace was read, and thanks expressed.—(For further particulars see January 16th.)

Miss Garnier read a very comprehensive list of Natural History Books, which will appear later.

JANUARY 16TH, 1904.—A meeting was held at 50, Porchester Terrace—by kind invitation of Mrs. Franklin—to